

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

October 8, 2003

CONTACT: Dave Brubaker
916/653-5656

APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE FOR \$10 MILLION IN GRANTS FOR 2004-2005 ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT AND MITIGATION PROJECTS

The final application submission date is Friday, December 19, 2003.

SACRAMENTO -- Secretary for Resources Mary D. Nichols announced today that applications are currently available for the 2004-05-grant cycle of the Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation (EEM) program.

The program offers a total of \$10 million to local, state, and federal governmental agencies and to nonprofit organizations for projects to mitigate environmental impacts caused by new or modified state transportation facilities. State gasoline tax monies fund the EEMP Grants generally will be limited to \$250,000 per project.

Grants are given in three categories:

- **Highway Landscape and Urban Forestry** -- Projects designed to improve air quality through the planting of trees and other suitable plants.
- **Resource Lands** -- Projects for the acquisition, restoration, or enhancement of watersheds, wildlife habitat, wetlands, forests, or other significant natural areas.
- **Roadside Recreational** -- Projects for the acquisition and/or development of roadside recreational opportunities.

Applications for the 2004-05-grant cycle must be postmarked or received by the Resources Agency no later than Friday, December 19, 2003.

EEM program application packets, which include minimum legal requirements, project evaluation criteria, typical questions and answers, and a sample Caltrans project agreement, are available from the Resources Agency, 1416 Ninth Street, Room 1311, Sacramento, CA 95814, or by contacting Dave Brubaker, EEM Program Coordinator, at 916/653-5656 or dave.brubaker@resources.ca.gov

By April 15, 2004, the Resources Agency will recommend projects to the California Transportation Commission (CTC) for funding consideration. It is anticipated that the CTC will give preliminary approval to projects to be funded in July 2004.

Information may also be downloaded from the Internet at www.resources.ca.gov/eem

1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311, Sacramento, CA 95814 Ph. 916.653.5656 Fax 916.653.8102 <http://resources.ca.gov>

